

## **RESOLUTION NO. 16-687**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., is hosting its Fifth Annual Scholarship Gala to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on September 29, 2016. We also wish to recognize Mrs. Tessie Lee Davis Horace as Lifetime Achievement STEM Awardee; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tessie Lee Davis was the thirteenth child born to the late Willie and Lettie Tarver Davis of Seale (Russell County), Alabama. Tessie's childhood was different from most children. She was born with a club foot. Her early childhood years through junior high school were spent in John Andrews Hospital on the Tuskegee University campus in Tuskegee, Alabama; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tessie's parents stressed the importance of an education and hard work. Upon graduation from Mt. Olive High School in Fort Mitchell, Alabama, and upon the completion of a two-year general business course at Wenonah State Trade School in Birmingham, Alabama, Tessie was employed as secretary to the assistant state supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, located on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College. After successfully serving in this area, she accepted a position as secretary to the executive director of the Association of Huntsville Area Contractors (AHAC), also in Huntsville, Alabama, where she earned positive evaluations in that position as well. Following marriage, a divorce and a two and a half year-old baby girl, she was encouraged to continue her education; and,

**WHEREAS**, because of her work ethic, Tessie was employed as the first treasurer/manager of Councill Federal Credit Union, located on the campus of Alabama A&M University (AAMU). She managed this office while enrolled in school at AAMU. Upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, Tessie was immediately recruited for the accountant/grants and contracts position for Agricultural Research for the School of Agriculture at AAMU. After several years in this position with positive federal audits of management of 33-plus federal grants totaling millions and earning the Master of Business Administration degree, she was encouraged to return to her roots, "the trade school," J. F. Drake State Technical College, located in Huntsville, Alabama. Tessie was employed as accountant/grants and contracts specialist for the Title III Program. She retired after 36 years of employment with the State of Alabama; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tessie has been very active in the church and community. She is a faithful member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where she is a member of the Number One Adult Sunday School Class, the mid-day Bible Class, the Trustee Ministry, the Number One Senior Usher Ministry (over 45 years) and the Senior Adult Ministry. Her involvement in the community includes her service as president of the Board of Directors of Councill Federal Credit Union; corresponding secretary, Alabama New South Coalition; past president, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Delta Omega Zeta Chapter; past member, Advisory Council of Huntsville Housing Authority; AARP (local and national); Alabama Education Association; Madison County Education Retirees Association; and the Cooperative Extension Service Successful Aging Advisory Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, additionally, she has received the following certificates/plaques in recognition of faithful service: Alabama New South Coalition Leadership Summit Advances as a Legacy Leadership Fellow - 2010; Certificate of Membership for 44 dedicated years of membership, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church - 2008; Award of Recognition for

Dedicated Service to Council Federal Credit Union - 2004; 2000 Chancellor's Award Nominee, Outstanding Administrator of the Year; 14 years of Distinguished Service - Grants and Contracts, J. F. Drake State Technical College, Huntsville, Alabama - 2000; College Business Management Institute, University of Kentucky, completed August 2, 1996; Award of Appreciation, School of Agriculture and Home Economics, AAMU - 1975-1988; Outstanding Leadership, Dedicated and Untiring Service, Delta Omega Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.-1986; and,

**WHEREAS**, Tessie is the mother of Mia Charisse Horace-Smith. She is the grandmother of dearly beloved Tyrone Smith (TJ), Maurese and Tia Smith.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and commend the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., on their Fifth Annual Scholarship Gala and extend best wishes for continued success. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mrs Tessie Lee Davis Horace as Lifetime Achievement STEM Awardee for her many achievements, and wish her every success in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2016.

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President of the City Council of  
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2016

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville,  
Alabama